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May 14, 1966

Dear Dave,

Your letter of yesterday is virtually the only mail that has reached me on time in a year. If it is just coincidence, the Post Office has concentrated its inefficiencies on me. Letters from Washington take up to six days, and from New York, four days is fast and some have taken two weeks. Some to and from Europe have never been delivered. This is an indication of the kind of experiences we have been having, and an introduction to telling you how much we appreciate your kindness and even more, your willingness. As I told Mr. Williams in the letter accompanying the book that is already addressed, among the comforts of this period of frustration has been the help and encouragement of some members of the working press, a number of whom have become friends through this.

If I am able to overcome the reluctance of one of the top ten to break the ice and they do syndicate the book, as they are contemplating, it will be largely because a major British correspondent interceded for me after reading the book. He also sent me to a competitor, knowing his paper would not touch the subject, and the second fellow is just as nice, having called and phoned England for me, unrequested, and sent a copy to his paper, which is interested in syndication if British publication can be arranged (not now encouraging). A German correspondent has it at Der Spiegel, a French correspondent has written his paper, etc. Several of the US correspondents have behaved similarly.

A book salesman for a major house and two bookstore managers approached a Washington distributor for me. His contract will be ready for signing Monday. He may approach distributors in other cities. I hope he does. There are good and decent and concerned people left in our society. I know there is a Baltimore News Company, and I hope, like District News in Washington, they handle books. If you know anyone there and, after satisfying yourself the book is what I represent, can speak to him, my contract with District will provide a 50% discount from which they will give the stores the normal 40%, with return rights, etc. - the normal contract. The bookstores have also been encouraging. Until being sent to District, I had approached 14. They took 602 books, which I understand is, even on consignment, phenomenal. One is a newsstand at which I get papers from distant points. They put 25 out Thursday, without any advertising and, of course, I can provide none. They sold five copies Thursday. This, I am told, is quite unusual and good, for this is the highest-priced paperback yet. I regret it can return no profit, but I hope it will pay the bills, the first of which is due in four weeks.

This is a hurried note, for I do want to thank you before I again get lost in all that there is no one else to do. I also encourage you to read the book carefully, for it is inevitable that this will soon break out into perhaps the biggest scandal in our national history. I expect another book to record what amounts almost to confessions of official error. Mine, as you will see, destroys all the major conclusions. It will not be entirely suppressed. After deciding on the private printing which I could get out fast, I got three offers, all for publication about Christmas time, which is too late. One demanded a reorganization, as the preface records. I will not attack the Government, though it must be criticized. Appreciatively,